GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1412
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
MINTING OF COINS AND PRINTING OF NOTES
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange spent by the Government in importing/minting of coins/currency notes from abroad during the last three years;

(b) the expenditure being incurred by the Government on each of Rs.1 Rs.2 and Rs.5 coin from import to its circulation; (

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any plan or strategy to make the country self-reliant in coin minting;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether opening of new mint at Hyderabad and doubling the shift of NOIDA mint, the import has come down to some extent; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to save the foreign exchange on this account?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) Total foreign exchange spent by the Government in importing/minting of coins/currency notes from abroad during the last three years is as under:

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Coins    -   US $ 4,09,76,546,  GBP 53,19,144 & DM 3,10,28,616
Currency notes -  US $ 9,52,83,944.
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(b) Orders have been placed for import of 2.5 billion coins. The expenditure to be incurred on these imports is as follows :

Deno.	Quantity	Expenditure (in MPCs)
Re.1	750	US $ 86,94,837.50
Rs.2	750	US $ 2,30,54,625
Rs.5	1000	{DM 1,87,15,824 and {US $ 3,97,84,500

In addition, about 1% of the above expenditure will be incurred towards port handling charges and delivery of coins to RBI vaults.

(c),(d),(e) & (f) With a view to increasing the coin production in the country, the three Mints at Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad are being modernised . As a result of the ongoing modernisation, the production of coins is increasing steadily. Further modernisation of mints for augmenting the capacity is also being contemplated. Second shift working is planned to be introduced at NOIDA Mint.With these measures, the coin production in the country is expected to increase substantially. However, import of coins is contingent upon the RBI`s demand for coins in future.